1320

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Non-Persona Grata

THERE YOU ARE! I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS KEEPING YOU.
MEDIC.
DETECTIVE MEDIC, I'M THE FIRST NON-HUMAN TO GET A GOLD SHIELD DETECTIVE AWARD.
A REPORTER CALLED ME THE JACKIE ROBINSON OF THE LAPD. THAT'S KIND OF A NICE SENTIMENT, DON'T YOU THINK?

GOT A KILLER TO CATCH, MEDIC.
YES, YOUR PARTNER'S MURDER.
I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU'RE NOT BLAMING YOURSELF. HUMPHREY'S ONE TRICKY--
I KNOW.
HE WAS THE PUPPET OF A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VENTRILOQUIST THAT HISTORY INDICATES A SKILL SET THAT INCLUDES SLIGHT OF HAND, CRAFTINESS, GAMESMANSHIP AND A LOW SIZE 10D WITH A VIOLENT STREAK TO MATCH HIS--
MEDIC!

Films and children's literature are filled with charming tales of toys, teddy bears, patchwork dolls, and puppets imbued with human qualities. But what if bestowing life upon such objects had a downside? What if the newly animated objects weren't lovable and appealing at all?

Glen Brunswick explores those questions in his Image Comics miniseries ***Non-Humans.*** "The Non-Humans are toys and other objects that people tend to personify or invest with personality in life—they could also be mannequins, statues, robots—places where a human mind can travel with some imagination," Brunswick told ***CSN.*** "This is a world where millions of these objects have sparked to life all over the globe... and many are filled with violence and anger in their heart. They have no chance of happily adapting to society. They need to be hunted down and destroyed. Those that are benevolent must struggle to find their place in a world that distrusts and devalues them.

"This world is very different from ours—no internet, no video games, no Hollywood. In fact, the simple act of engaging in fantasy is now illegal. The disease that creates the Non-Humans is found to be most active in adolescence, resulting in a legal mandate that requires the entire teenage world population to take drugs 24/7 in order to prevent the Non-Human populace from spiraling out of control. Humans live in huge all-encompassing buildings that provide for all their needs, while the Non-Human populace has the run of the streets—a society of haves and have-nots. The Non-Humans watch the humans with envy up in their ivory towers, wishing and remembering what it was like to once be a part of the human race."

Exactly what is the is the nature of this disease, and how are the humans responsible for creating the non-humans? "The interesting thing we've come up with is that when a Non-Human sparks to life it, actually comes from one of us," Brunswick explained? They don't just bust into existence as they are. They take a piece of the personality from the individual that once owned them. In a sense ,they are born from our DNA in the same way a baby is born from its mother. They're a product of us. In 2015, we sent a NASA probe to Mars that brought back a fossil that unleashed an airborne contagion that circled the globe, causing the initial wave of the Non-Human population. Twenty-six-years later, we see what the world has become."

Early on in the series, Brunswick establishes that this is a very different world—no television, no internet. Why is that? "Our scientists discovered that the very act of role-playing or personifying certain objects, when coupled with the disease, caused the object to spring to life," Brunswick replied. "Video games, films, comic books, or any form of visual fantasy storytelling increased the levels of Non-Human creation. The internet, being the perfect vehicle to transport these things, legally or illegally, had to be shut down to halt an ever increasing Non-Human population."

WHO'S YOUR TEDDY?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M YOUR CUDDLY BEAR WHEN YOU NEED SOME TENDER LOVE.
HURRY UP, BUDDY!!!
DID YOU FORGET TO PAY BEFORE YOU PLAY?

HEY MAN! WATCH YOUR ASS!
SORRY.
I SEEN YOU HERE BEFORE.
SPICE'S FRIEND AIMES?
TODD. YEAH.
THOUGHT SO. WHAT'RE YOU? LIKE SIXTEEN?
FOURTEEN. LOOK I GOTTA GET--
FOURTEEN, SURE. YOU'RE FEELIN' GOOD NOW UNCLE SAM'S FORCE FEEDING YOU THAT ONE-A-DAY VITAMIN.

Did Brunswick always envision ***Non-Humans*** as something dark and relentless? "I don't think it was this dark initially," Brunswick said. "As we developed the story, this tone just came organically from the parameters we set for ourselves while building the world and actually from the characters themselves as we unpacked their stories. I think if you have a society that is forbidden to publicly engage in fantasy, you've already got a fairly dark place to live in."

This is a pretty complicated world to pack into one limited series; does Brunswick envision returning to the world of ***Non-Humans*** if the first limited series does well? "We're hoping to test the water with this four-issue miniseries to see what kind of response we'll have on a project that is a huge labor of love for us," Brunswick said. "There is no justification for the kind of effort that we've made if it just turns out to be a one arc story. I would say that the odds of us continuing the ***Non-Humans*** saga are very good!"

Non-Humans #1, a $2.99 comic by *Glen Brunswick & Whilce Portacio,* is scheduled for October 3rd release.

by Cliff Biggers

There's this feeling throughout the series that we're watching the end of an era, a sort of decline of humanity… is that the case? "It could be," Brunswick said. "I guess you'll just have to pick it up to find out. Anyone remember what happened to the humans at the end of the original ***Planet of the Apes*** series? When another form of life wants what you have, you'd better keep your wits about you..."

In the solicitation copy, Image describes ***Non-Humans*** as "***Blade Runner*** meets ***Toy Story.***" Brunswick offered a little more insight into that high-concept pitch. "***Blade Runner*** set up the idea that it may not be right to enslave androids," Brunswick explained. "In fact, they may actually be as human as you or me. ***Non-Humans*** takes a similar notion and applies it to these toys that have sprung to life with pieces of actual human personalities inside of them—they may be as human as anyone—or they may have missing pieces which can lead them to violence. The question is, are they entitled to the same rights and privileges that we humans enjoy in this world? It's a question that we'll attempt to answer."

In ***Non-Humans,*** it's more than toys that have gained sentience. What other sort of Non-Humans will we meet? "Todd, Aimes' son, is dating SPICE, an ex Victoria's Secret mannequin," Brunswick said. "She lives in Plastic Town with a Goth doll roommate and mechanical dog that has taken spare parts to build a robot body that is the same size as an adult human. Aimes' is pestered on a daily basis by one of my favorite characters, Medic. He was a medical dummy that has become the only Non-Human detective on the police force—he's part Sherlock Holmes and part Mr. Spock. Then there's Buddy-the-Bear who peddles brain freeze drugs in Plastic Town to twenty somethings that no longer qualify for the government sponsored drugs. Whilce's design for Buddy knocked it out of the park—I'm so ready for my own Buddy action figure!"

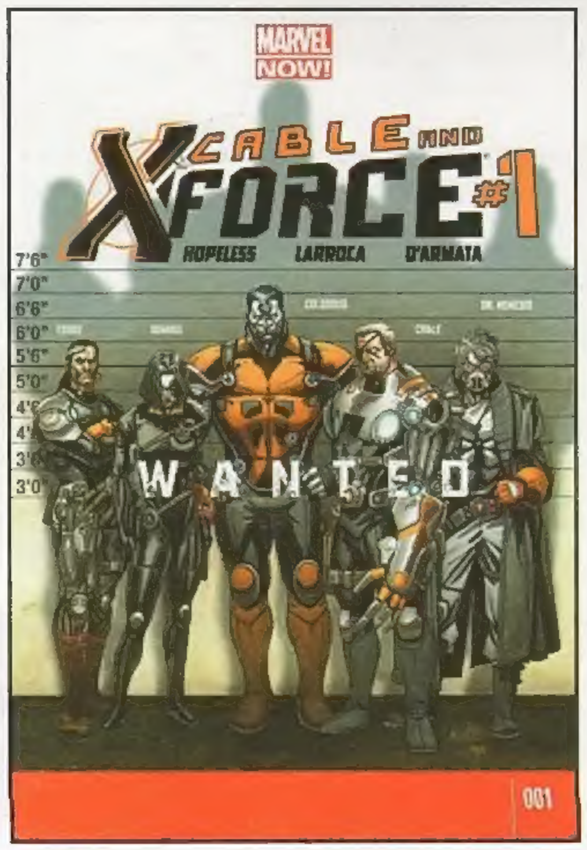
The aforementioned "Whilce" is *Whilce Portacio,* the acclaimed artist who is joining Brunswick on ***Non-Humans.*** How did Brunswick convince Portacio to join the team? "Well, sometimes it's important to spend a little time, as a writer, doing research to get enough dirt on a fantastic artist in order to blackmail him into working with you," Brunswick replied in a conspiratorial tone. "I'm not saying that's what happened here—just presenting a little public advice.

"Actually, Whilce did a fantastic cover for me on my previous Image *Jersey Gods* series. We had been talking about doing something together for quite a while—but of course, it had to be the right project. ***Non-Humans*** is, I think, a perfect fit for Whilce, but the scale of the world is daunting for most artists—it requires a ton of work world building. Luckily Whilce fell in love with this idea to want to make it his own. What you see in the book only scratches the edges of the incredible vision that Whilce has come up with. As we progress we'll be able to share so much more. I'll be posting many of his fantastic designs on our blog at **www.thenonhumans.blogspot.com**."

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*



X-Force Gets Cable

No, we're not talking about their television viewing habits!... This December, X-Force reunites with the man responsible for creating the team to begin with as ***Cable and X-Force #1*** joins the Marvel schedule, courtesy of writer *Dennis Hopeless* and artist *Salvador Larroca*.

Readers who fondly remember the original 1990s versions of this team will feel right at home. When asked if he was tapping into nostalgia for that era with the new series, Hopelesss told marvel.com, "Take one look at the costume designs and see that the answer is 'Yes.' We're stealing everything that was fun and exciting about that over-the-top 90's ***X-Force*** and bolting it onto modern characterization and storytelling. Our X-Force is giant guns, insane action, badass badasses, and three-dimensional characters with human emotions!"

Hopeless went on to explain that "I see ***Cable and X-Force*** as a crime book. In my favorite crime stories, the characters are always at each other's throats. This X-Force needed to be like that, a team of specialists who work well together but don't always like each other. We tried to pick big personalities who were likely to clash in high stress situations. There are characters I wanted and didn't get but I'm pretty thrilled with the final roster. It's a powder keg."

As far as Hopeless is concerned, Cable is the cornerstone of the series. "I took a look at who Cable is right here and now. He's an aging fighter who has been through a hundred kinds of hell and still feels every scar. He's a father who, for good or ill, has been forced to let his daughter go. He's a presumed-dead outlaw currently best known for trying to kill Earth's Mightiest Heroes [in the ***Avengers: X-Sanction*** limited series by *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness*]. He's exhausted.

"Looking at Cable that way made it all kind of fall into place. This is a guy ready to pack it in. But maybe he can't. Maybe he has to pull off the Cable version of one last score. He has to save the world against all odds one final time and then he can retire into the sunset. Of course, that 'one last score' job never goes as planned.

"At the beginning of the book, the last thing Cable wants is to lead a new X-Force. He's beat up, tired and thinking seriously about full-on retirement. Unfortunately for the Askani'son, once things get rolling he doesn't have much choice but to make X-Force the priority. He won't have time for any solo gallivanting."

Cable and X-Force #1 is slated for December release.

Hail Atlantis!...

Aquaman and Atlantis are very much in the New 52 news this week. First up is an ***Aquaman*** departure... sort of. *Ivan Reis & Joe Prado*, well known for their stunning work on ***Aquaman***, have been tapped as the new art team on ***Justice League;*** they will be joining writer *Geoff Johns* beginning with December's ***Justice League #15.*** "Ivan and Joe, they're pretty unmatched when it comes to grace and power and emotion in storytelling. They elevate everything they work on," *Geoff Johns* said. But of course, Aquaman *is* a part of the Justice League, so Reis & Prado will still be illustrating Aquaman, even if they're not illustrating ***Aquaman.***

(So what's on the schedule for departing ***Justice League*** artist *Jim Lee*, who launched the New 52 series with *Geoff Johns*? DC isn't saying yet, but they promise that there will be "major news" on Lee's next project in the very near future.)

And in the next bit of Aquaman-related news: DC has announced in the pages of ***USA Today*** that the fifteenth issues of ***Justice League*** and ***Aquaman*** would feature a crossover event entitled "Throne of Atlantis."

"There are still questions of what Atlantis is like and what they do and what they're capable of and why they exist and who sank Atlantis," *Geoff Johns* said in the ***USA Today*** article. "There's all this mythology behind Atlantis that we're not really sure of and no one really has any answers, and we're about to get the answers."

The story arc will reveal new details about Aquaman and his mixed feelings towards Atlantis. "Aquaman's going to have to make some decisions that the League won't necessarily agree with," Johns said.

Johns went on to explain that, in the crossover event, ""The Justice League is trying to come together and become the team that Aquaman said in issue 12 the team needed to be: a team that trusts each other, that knows each other, and there are no secrets any more.

"They're trying to get through all that in this arc, and now they've got to deal with some of these things that they don't know about each other and are literally rising up out of the waters they're going to have to come face to face with."

Aquaman #15 and ***Justice League #15*** are slated for December release.

•DC has tapped *R.M. Guera*, best known as artist of ***Scalped,*** to illustrate the ***Unchained*** limited series based on *Quentin Tarantino's* upcoming film. The first issue of the adaptation, slated for December release, will feature a variant cover by *Jim Lee*.

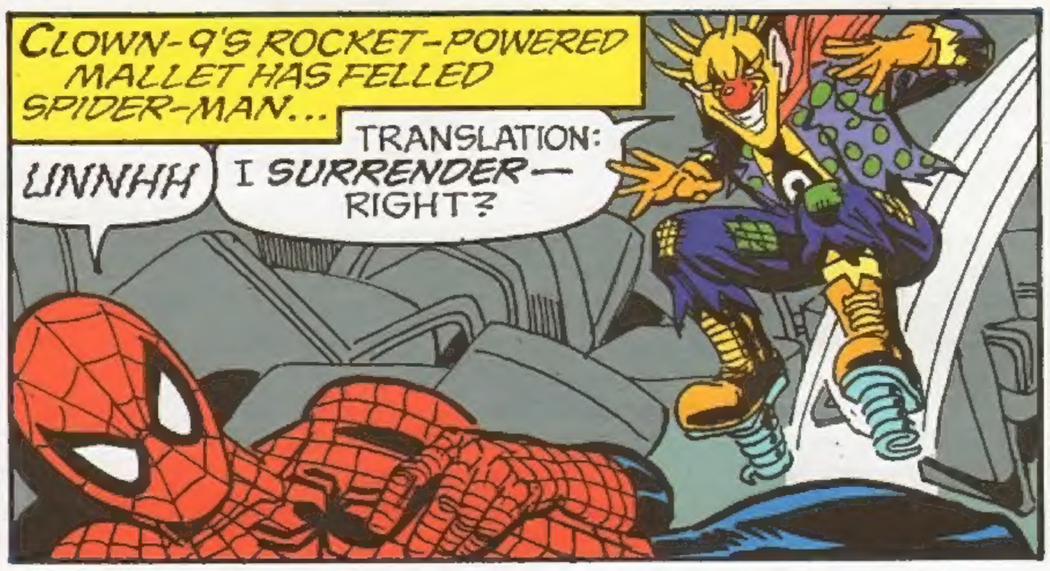
Marvel's Battle Royale

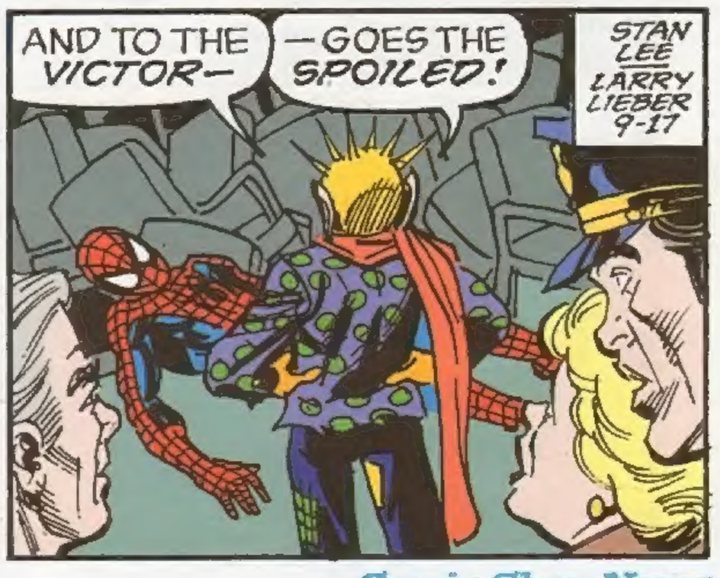
Take sixteen of Marvel's youngest heroes, toss 'em into a murderous Murderworld show run by the maniacally malevolent Arcade, and you have the premise behind *Dennis Hopeless & Kev Walker's* ***Avengers Arena.***

The series, which launches in December, will star (among others) ***Avengers Academy's*** Hazmat, Mettle, Reptil, X-23, and Juston & his Sentinel; ***Runaways'*** Nico and Chase; ***Annihilation's*** Cami; and Darkhawk, who find themselves thrown into a no-holds-barred kill-or-be-killed conflict.

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER





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"We really got to cherry pick our cast," Hopeless said on Marvel.com. "That was a lot of fun, almost as much fun as creating the brand new characters. I have a feeling the Braddock Academy kids in particular are going to break some hearts. Not sure if we made it clear yet, but people die in this book."

These kids are all there is," said Walker. "No spectators, no innocent bystanders, no civilians; an entire world of seventeen people. This is up close and personal, more intimate than any other book out there, because it's just us and them, and I have to fill each of them with enough soul so that the audience feels for them, no matter how brief their appearance."

Avengers Arena editor *William Rosemann* said that the series will bring some new twists to the concept of teens confronting one another in a game for survival. "Throughout history, societies have sent their young adults against one another in competition, whether that's in war, sports or ***American Idol***," Rosemann said. "Likewise, art has examined this phenomenon of the older generation sacrificing the younger generation – and also of young warring gangs wanting to prove who's number one -- in everything from the myth of Theseus vs. the Minotaur to ***Lord of the Flies*** to ***Battle Royale*** to ***Starship Troopers*** to ***Survivor*** to ***Hunger Games***. Teen vs. teen competition is as old as storytelling—but now it's time to give it the Marvel twist."

DC Gives Us Liberty

This December, DC revisits the world of ***JSA Liberty Files*** with a new six-issue limited series by *B. Clay Moore & Tony Harris* entitled ***JSA Liberty Files: The Whistling Skull.*** The miniseries is set in 1940s Europe, with WWII raging. While the world is fighting the evil of Hitler and the Nazis in Europe, there is still a need for heroes to fight crime in the United States... and ***The Whistling Skull*** will introduce just such a hero!

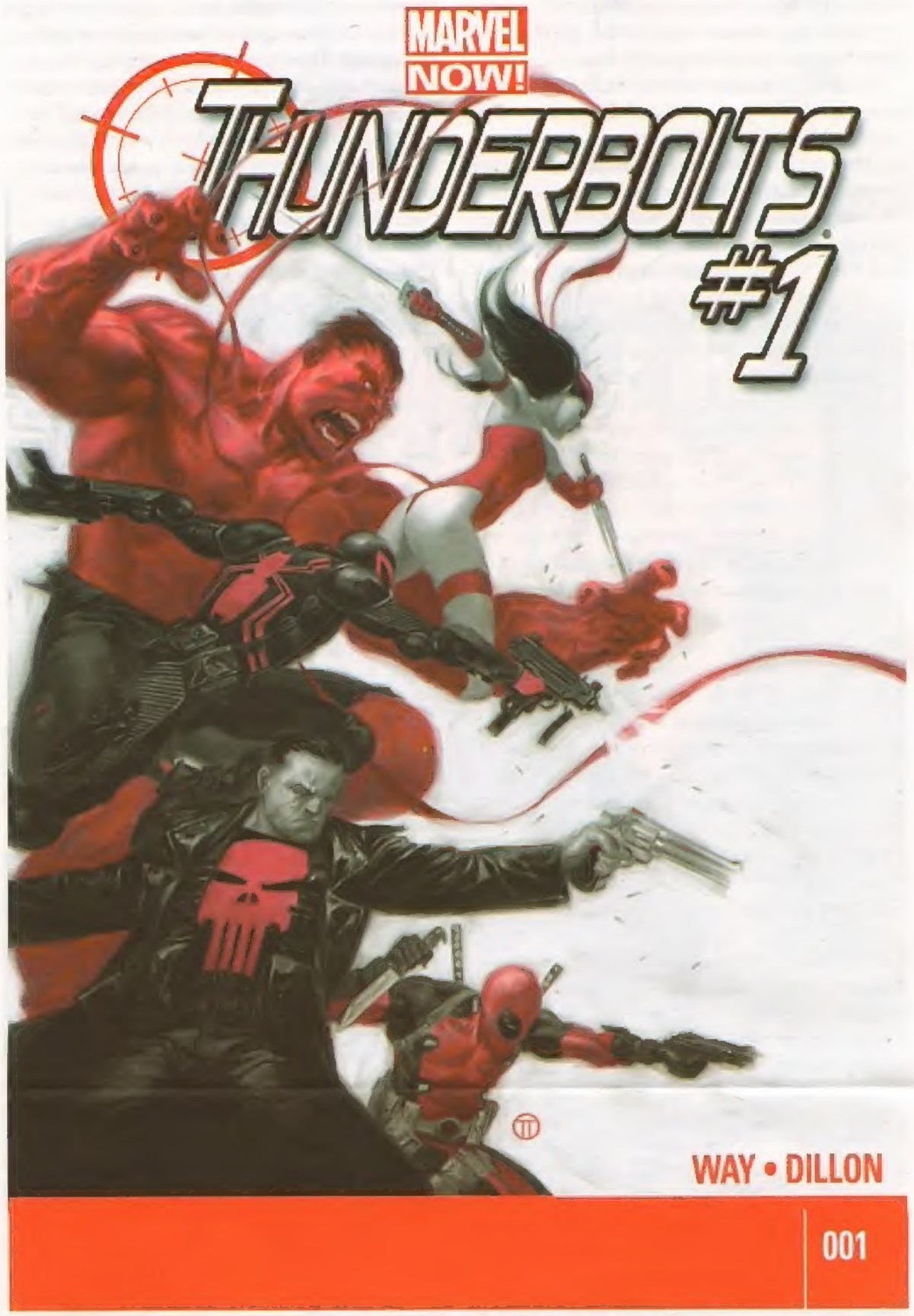
"Tony and I have been working on ***The Whistling Skull*** for a while, now, and it's been an absolute labor of love," Moore said on DC's blog The Source. "I think he's doing the absolute best work of his career here, and there's no one better to accentuate that than *Dave McCaig* on color.

"For readers looking for a new spin on the DC Universe, combined with brand new headlining characters, I think the book will be a treat, and it's just the first chapter in a much larger story. This initial offering introduces readers to the legacy of the Whistling Skull in a wartime, pulp-infused setting, and should provide something fresh for readers to sink their teeth into."

"This is a long haul, sweet baby that's finally coming together," Harris added. "Clay and I have been developing ***The Whistling Skull*** for a few years now. Taking every precaution and the utmost care with every word and every line of ink to make sure we bring you something new, fresh and exciting. I could go on and on dropping catch phrases and bore you to death with 'personal' 'important' 'kickass' 'bloobidy-blah-blab-blab.' Not gonna happen here.

"What I *will* say is that a host of friends, contemporaries and scores of fans have shepherded this project carefully and steadily towards the waiting hands of countless devotees of mine and Clay's creative efforts. It's something I will *never* forget as we approach the release of ***JSA Liberty Files: The Whistling Skull.***

"And DC Comics' willingness to marry and 'seat' Skull firmly in the ***JSA Liberty Files*** universe that I was a part of creating in years past, in effect resurrecting that franchise and allowing us to breathe *new* life into it, is a testament to DC Comics' dedication to producing exciting, new properties that have the potential to go on for many years to come. I feel like I did when *James Robinson* and I were preparing to release ***Starman*** into the world. I can barely sit still."



Thunderbolts: Marvel's Quirky Quintet

Five heroes who have a *very* poor track history as team players join together to form a team. Welcome to *Daniel Way & Steve Dillon's* ***Thunderbolts*** series, the latest confirmed addition to the Marvel NOW relaunch line.

Thunderbolts brings together Deadpool, Venom, Red Hulk, the Punisher, and Elektra as a team that is willing to ignore treaties, cross borders, break laws, and do what it takes to bring the lawless to justice anywhere in the world.

Daniel Way describes ***Thunderbolts*** as a book inspired in part by "frustration, despondency, a deep-seeded desire to strike back in a decided—and, if necessary, drastic—and sure manner at forces which have systematically dismantled and/or subverted such constructs as transparency, equality and basic human rights.

"How many times have we said to ourselves, 'If only I had the power...'? Well, Thunderbolt Ross *has* that power and this series will show what he does with it. Really,

I CREAMED SPIDER-MAN— AND THE WORLD WATCHED ME DO IT!
WE'LL SEND ALL FAN LETTERS TO YOUR JAIL CELL!
AND, SPEAKING OF CREAM— HAVE A CREAM PIE—
--LACED WITH CHLOROFORM!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-18
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it all boils down to the most 'Marvel' of our medium's go-to ideologies: With great power comes great responsibility."

For Way, the opportunity to chronicle this new team was irresistible. "When I was presented with this team in particular—a team of 'lone wolf' characters—it was like a dream come true," Way said. "This Thunderbolts team has no inherent allegiance to any one country or government, and their various citizenships have been revoked, abandoned or, in Ross' case, negated upon his supposed death."

Way stressed that this is not a secret team, operating undercover—quite the contrary, in fact! "Unlike X-Force, which runs covert ops, the Thunderbolts run *overt* ops—they don't hide from *anyone*. They want you to know they're out there. They want you to know what it is they do. And they do this for two reasons: one, to give the oppressed hope and, two, to let the oppressors know to either back down or come heavy because there is no middle ground.

"There are already plenty of super-powered teams out there protecting the planet; this team protects the *people*. All people, no matter what borders have to be crossed or what international treaties or trade agreements have to be violated or ignored to do so. This is the team that confronts aggression with greater aggression, force with greater force. They will strike anywhere, at any time, without warning. Y'know, like how lightning strikes the earth.

"For multiple reasons, there will be no government willing to claim the Thunderbolts as their own and there will be some governments—the U.S. government, in particular—which will be loathe to acknowledge their very existence. The people, however, will be very much in the Thunderbolts' corner—at first..."

What convinces such a disparate team to join forces? "Without giving away too much—because it's the basis of the first issue—this team is brought together through a common desire and that, essentially, is to make a bigger impact. By the time the first story arc concludes, the Thunderbolts will have done something that will have everyone—*everyone*—in the Marvel universe screaming for their blood. What that is and how it happens starts on the first page of the first issue."

Way agrees that this isn't the most stable of teams. "It's an intensely volatile mix from the start, and it will only become more unstable as the series progresses. Something is revealed at the close of the first arc that will, very much against their wills, bind these characters together tighter than a hangman's noose."

What sort of threats will earn the Thunderbolts' attention? "This is the team that takes on the big problems others can't... or won't. The easiest way to explain this is to look at the real world. Though there are atrocities committed all over the world, why is it the U.S. government intervenes in only some of these cases, rather than all? The reasons, sadly and invariably, are rooted in politics. The Thunderbolts have no politics. Of course, this being a comic book with an unlimited special effects budget, rest assured that any conflict into which this team enters will definitely be on the epic side of the scale. With this cast of characters? There's no way I'm going to hold back."

Way explained that these characters are experts at combat and lethal action... but there expertise has its limits. "Every member of this team has spent the majority of their life at war. They're familiar with it, almost comfortable with it. It's the other stuff that throws them for a loop; the 'life' stuff. The 'dealing with my fellow man' stuff. This will become explosively evident as soon as these characters—[that have] been, for the most part, living in self-imposed exile—are thrown together within a confined space. Though they're committed to acting on behalf of society, they have absolutely no interested in joining it. It's simply not where they belong."

Way has nothing but praise for ***Thunderbolts*** illustrator *Steve Dillon*. "Steve is one of the greatest visual storytellers working in this medium. We're lucky to have him, and I'm luckiest of all. Not only do I get to work with him, I get to see his pages before anyone else. And what I'm seeing from him on this series is jaw-dropping. I'd like to think the material has inspired him, because I haven't seen this level of detail and energy in his work in quite a while."

Thunderbolts #1 is slated for December release.

CSNsider

•Intriguing news reported by Daniel Best at his blog ohdannyboy.blogspot.co.uk: apparently *Todd McFarlane* has abandoned his trademark claim on Marvelman/Miracleman, leaving Marvel the trademark holders for both Marvelman *and* Miracleman. Could we be just months way from a Marvel announcement regarding not only reprints of the classic *Alan Moore* ***Marvelman*** series, but also new stories by *Neil Gaiman & Mark Buckingham* wrapping up their unfinished storyline from the 1980s? Could be!

•***Absolute Batman and Robin: Batman Reborn*** has been rescheduled for February release.

•***Batman: Arkham Unhinged*** has been rescheduled for February release.

•***Fables Deluxe Edition HC Vol 6*** has been rescheduled for February release.

•***The New Teen Titans: Games TP*** has been rescheduled for February release.

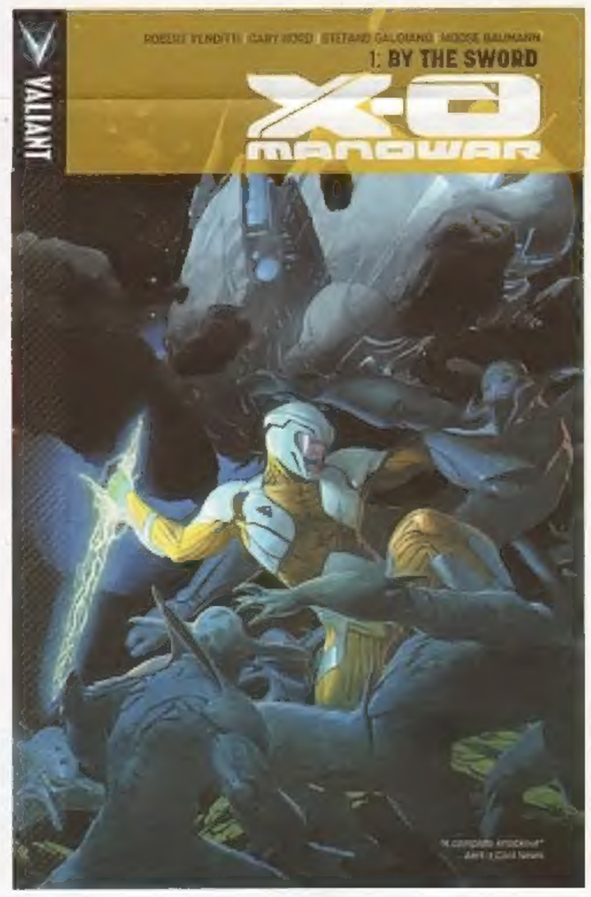
•***Batman: The Black Mirror TP*** has been rescheduled for March release.

•***Stormwatch Volume 2 HC*** has been postponed and will be resolicited at a later date.

•***Just Imagine Stan Lee Creating the DC Universe*** has been postponed and will be resolicited at a later date.

•*Alberto Ponticelli*, until recently the artist of ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE,*** takes over as artist of ***Dial H*** beginning with ***Dial H #7*** in December. This issue kicks off a new *China Mieville* storyline that follows Nelson and Manteau to Europe in search of a relic that might hold the answer to their secret powers.

•Valiant kicks off their modern collected editions line in December with ***X-O Manowar Volume 1: By the Sword TP,*** collecting the first four issues of the series by *Robert Venditti & Cary Nord*. The 112-page trade paperback will be bargain-priced at $9.99 to offer new readers an incredibly affordable entry point into 2012's most successful new publisher launch.



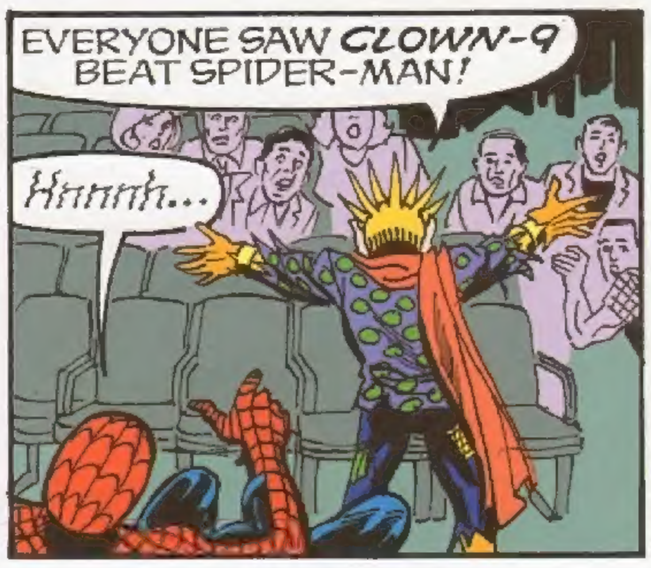
•December sees the launch of a ***Human Bomb*** limited series from DC Comics; this four-parter by *Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, & Jerry Ordway* is the latest in a series of projects revamping the classic Freedom Fighter heroes as they become a part of the New 52 DCU. Co-writer *Jimmy Palmiotti* told comicbookresources.com that "this version definitely is brand-spankin' new. The actual power he has and some of that stuff we keep to the traditional sense of the character. But we're looking at this for a brand new audience as well as the people who have been following our work and have been following the Freedom Fighters. It's an interesting departure and yet, in a lot of ways, it's a respectful kind of retelling."

Justin Gray explained that they "wanted to take the concept of a human bomb and branch out further from what you've seen before of a guy in the radioactive suit, having to keep himself contained out of fear of doing harm to others; we looked at the idea of making a bigger mythology to what the Human Bomb is and what it means."

"Death of the Family" Gets Die-Cut

To make sure that no one overlooks the "Death of the Family" story event running though many of the Bat-family books this fall, DC is bringing back a time-honored cover enhancement: the die-cut cover. In addition to the regular cover art, each book in this storyline will feature a die-cut cardstock overcover.

The storyline begins in ***Batman #13,*** in stores October 10th; this issue will feature a new cover by *Greg Capullo* plus a die-cut cardstock overcover by Capullo spotlighting



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the Joker. (An addition, there will be a variant-cover edition featuring art by Capullo, as well as a 1-for-100 B&W version of this Capullo cover.)

The overcover by Capullo will also appear on these installments of "Death of the Family":

- ***Batgirl #13,*** a prelude to "Death of the Family," in stores 10/10.
- ***Catwoman #13,*** a prelude to "Death of the Family," in stores 10/17.
- ***Suicide Squad #14,*** in stores 11/14.
- ***Batman & Robin #15,*** in stores in December.
- ***Detective Comics #15,*** in stores in December.
- ***Nightwing #15,*** in stores in December.
- ***Red Hood and the Outlaws #15,*** in stores in December.
- ***Teen Titans #15,*** in stores in December.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in December

Faith Erin Hicks' delightfully lighthearted take on superheroics gets its first print collection with the release of ***The Adventures of Superhero Girl HC,*** a 112-page collection chronicling the trials and tribulations of a young female superhero, battling monsters both supernatural and mundane in an all-too-ordinary world.

Rod Espinosa adapts *Lewis Carroll's* classic tale in the 128-page ***Alice in Wonderland HC.***

In ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 9 #16*** by *Andrew Chambliss, Georges Jeanty, & Dexter Vines,* Buffy takes on the zompire epidemic in San Francisco with new allies—the SFPD and Billy the Vampire Slayer! Just as Buffy finds contentment in her life, she's torn from routine battle and forced to confront an ancient demon from her former lover's past!

In ***Criminal Macabre: Final Night—The 30 Days of Night Crossover #1,*** *Steve Niles & Christopher Mitten* present a must-read crossover tale for horror fans, bringing together Niles' popular series published by Dark Horse and IDW respectively. Cal McDonald only wanted a beer, but what he got was a jaded federal agent and a story about vampires up in Barrow, Alaska. There's a new vamp in LA, and he's hell bent on escalating his attacks. When Mo'Lock's sometimes ghoul-friend is murdered, Cal's on the hunt . . . for Eben—the longtime protagonist/antagonist of ***30 Days of Night.***

Matt Kindt brings his edgy series ***Mind MGMT*** to ***Dark Horse Presents #19.*** This issue also features "The Return of X" by *Duane Swierczynski & Eric Nguyen.*

In *Adam Warren & Ryan Kinnaird's* ***Empowered Special #3: Hell Bent or Heaven Sent,*** costumed crime fighter Empowered makes an ill-fated visit to a top-secret dumping ground for ultratech "superdebris" and wrecked "villainware" left over from cape-on-cape battle. Can Emp and her hapless teammate, Mechanismo, avoid annihilation when the junkyard nano spawns an apocalyptic cheesecake plague of flirty but lethal "cyberangels" and sensual but savage "devil mecha"?

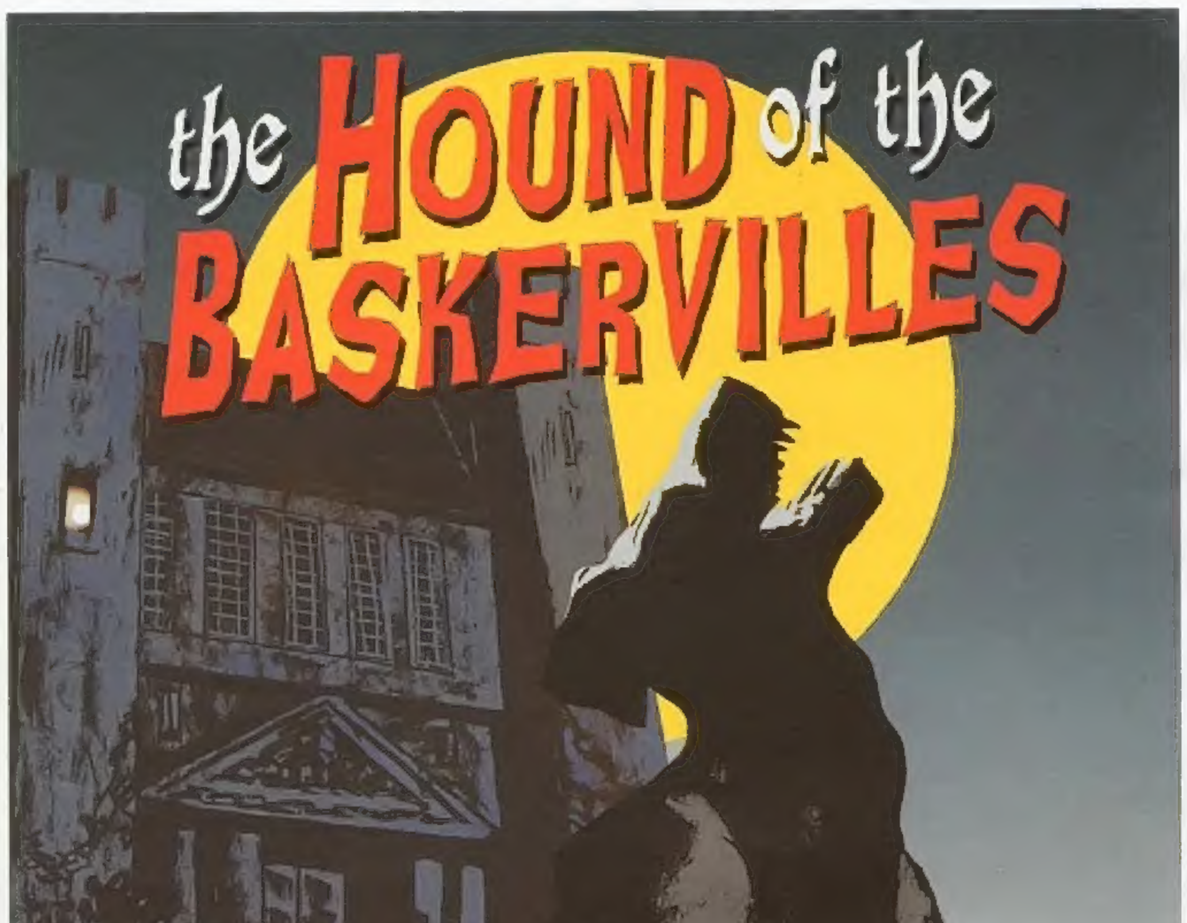
Eric Powell presents a very twisted take on Christmas in ***The Goon #45.***

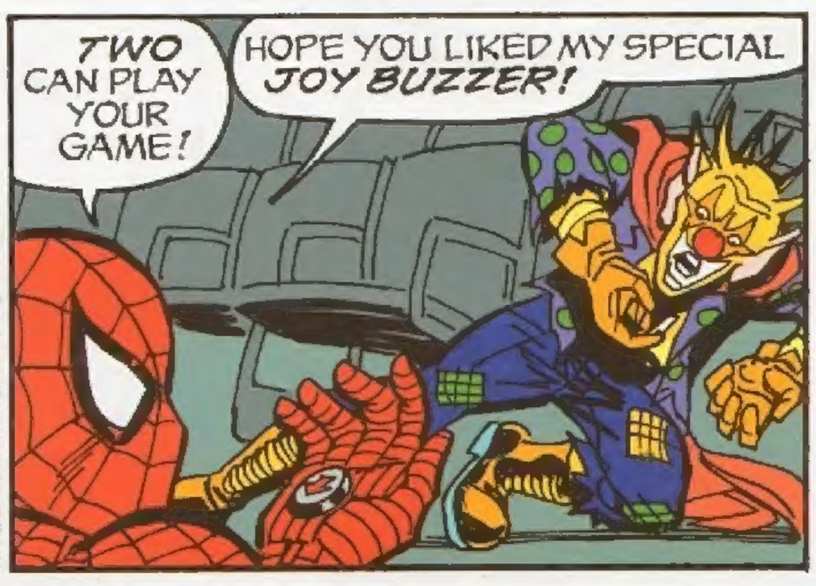
Mike Mignola returns to his best-known creation in ***Hellboy in Hell #1,*** which features both Mignola story *and* art. After saving the world in The Storm and The Fury, but sacrificing himself and Great Britain, Hellboy is dead, cast into Hell, where he finds many familiar faces, and a throne that awaits him.

Hiroaki Samura's Emerald & Other Stories TP features seven short pieces by the manga maestro, spanning a number of genres and time periods.

Martin Powell & Jamie Chase adapt *Arthur Conan Doyle's* most famous Sherlock Holmes tale in ***The Hound of the Baskervilles HC.***

Neon Genesis Evangelion: Comic Tribute TP reveals what happens when some of Japan's most unhinged manga artists get their ink-stained hands on one of the most popular manga series. This officially authorized one-shot anthology of parody stories assaults ***Evangelion*** from all directions, courtesy of *Mine Yoshizaki, Hideki Ohwada, Yun Kouga,* and many others.




TWO CAN PLAY YOUR GAME!
HOPE YOU LIKED MY SPECIAL JOY BUZZER!
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Shortly after the birth of the Empire, Darth Vader master of combat, terror of his enemies, continues his purge of the Jedi Knights on a planet where his Jedi prey are revered. Amidst a planetwide insurgency, the Dark Lord must snuff out one surviving Jedi, as well as kill the fire of rebellion in the native populace. All will bow to the power of Vader and the Galactic Empire in ***Star Wars: Purge—The Tyrant's Fist #1*** by *Alexander Freed, Marco Castiello, & Andrea Chella.*

Dark Horse collected editions (advance solicited for January and February 2013 release) include:

- ***Alabaster: Wolves HC,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries by *Caitlin R. Kiernan & Steve Lieber.*
- ***The Art of Bioshock Infinite HC,*** a 184-page oversized hardcover featuring production designs and concept illustrations for the Bioshock Infinite videogame.
- ***Avatar: The Last Airbender—The Promise Library Edition HC,*** an oversized hardcover edition of ***Avatar: The Last Airbender—The Promise Volumes 1-3,*** plus a brand new sketchbook.
- ***Black Beetle: Night Shift #0,*** collecting the *Francesco Francavilla* serial from ***Dark Horse Presents #s 11-13.***
- ***Brothers of the Spear Archives Volume 2 HC,*** collecting *Gaylord DuBois/Russ Manning* backup tales from ***Tarzan #s 68-109.***
- ***The Chronicles of King Conan Volume 4: The Prince Is Dead and Other Stories TP,*** collecting ***King Conan #s 16-20.***
- ***Creepy Archives Volume 15 HC,*** collecting ***Creepy #s 69-72.***
- ***The Curse of Dracula HC,*** collecting the *Marv Wolfman/Gene Colan* vampire tale, along with unseen sketches by Colan.
- ***Ghost Omnibus Volume 4 TP,*** collecting Ghost's origin saga.
- ***The Goon Volume 12: Them That Raised Us Lament TP,*** collecting ***The Goon #s 38-41.***
- ***House of Fun,*** collecting *Evan Dorkin* tales from ***Dark Horse Presents #s 10-12.***
- ***King Conan: The Phoenix on the Sword TP,*** collecting the *Robert E. Howard* adaptation by *Timothy Truman & Tomas Giorello.*
- ***The Milo Manara Library Volume 4 HC,*** collecting the adventures of Manara's most beloved character, Giuseppe Bergman.
- ***Number 13 #1,*** collecting the *Robert Love-David Walker-Dana Shukartsi* story arc from ***Dark Horse Presents.***
- ***Rex Mundi Omnibus Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Red Mundi Volumes 4-6.***
- ***Resident Alien Volume 1: Welcome to Earth! TP,*** collecting ***Resident Alien #s 0-3*** by *Peter Hogan & Steve Parkhouse.*
- ***Rotten Apple,*** collecting the *Chuck Brown-Sanford Greene* arc from ***Dark Horse Presents #s 2-5.***
- ***Star Wars Omnibus: Infinities TP,*** collecting the alternate-realities reinterpretations of ***A New Hope, The Empire Strikes Back,*** and ***Return of the Jedi.***
- ***Trigun Maximum Omnibus Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Trigun Maximum Volumes 4-6.***

Back to Press

- ***Archer & Armstrong #1 3rd Printing*** (AUG128056), in stores 10/17.
- ***Gambit #2 2nd Printing*** (AUG128050), featuring a variant cover by *Clay Mann,* in stores 10/17.
- ***Guarding the Globe #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG128044), in stores 10/17.
- ***Harbinger #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG128057), in stores 10/17.

- ***Harbinger #2 2nd Printing*** (AUG128058), in stores 10/17.
- ***Hawkeye #2 2nd Printing*** (AUG128051), featuring a variant cover by *David Aja,* in stores 10/17.
- ***Hypernaturals #3 2nd Printing*** (AUG128053), in stores 10/17.
- ***Planet of the Apes: Cataclysm #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG128054), in stores 10/17.
- ***Thief of Thieves #8 2nd Printing*** (AUG128045), in stores 10/17.
- ***Ultimate Comics Ultimates #15 2nd Printing*** (AUG128049), featuring a variant cover by *Michael Komarck,* in stores 10/24.

Harvey Winners Announced

The winners of the 25th Annual Harvey Awards were announced at the Baltimore Comic Con on September 8th. Selected by comic professionals, this year's winners include:

- **Best Writer** - *Mark Waid,* ***Daredevil*** (Marvel Comics)
- **Best Artist** - *J.H. Williams,* ***Batwoman*** (DC Comics)
- **Best Inker** - *Joe Rivera,* ***Daredevil*** (Marvel Comics)
- **Best Cartoonist** - *Kate Beaton,* ***Hark! A Vagrant*** (Drawn & Quarterly/harkavagrant.com)
- **Best Letterer** - *Chris Eliopoulos,* ***Fear Itself*** (Marvel Comics)
- **Best Colorist** - *Dave Stewart,* ***Hellboy: The Fury*** (Dark Horse Comics)
- **Best Cover Artist** - *J.H. Williams,* ***Batwoman*** (DC Comics)
- **Most Promising Talent** - *Sara Pichelli,* ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** (Marvel Comics)

- **Best Single Issue or Story** - ***Jim Henson's Tale of Sand*** (Archaia Entertainment)
- **Best Syndicated Strip** - ***Cul De Sac*** by *Richard Thompson* (Universal Press Syndicate)
- **Best Online Comics Work** - ***Hark! A Vagrant*** by *Kate Beaton* (harkavagrant.com)
- **Best American Edition of Foreign Material** - ***The Manara Library Volume 1: Indian Summer and Other Stories*** (Dark Horse Comics)
- **Best New Series** - ***Daredevil*** (Marvel Comics)
- **Best Continuing or Limited Series** - ***Daredevil*** (Marvel Comics)
- **Best Anthology** - ***Dark Horse Presents*** (Dark Horse Comics)
- **Best Original Graphic Album** - ***Jim Henson's Tale of Sand*** by *Jim Henson, Jerry Juhl, & Ramon Perez* (Archaia Entertainment)

- **Best Original Graphic Publication for Younger Readers** - ***Anya's Ghost*** by *Vera Brosgol* (First Second)
- **Best Graphic Album Previously Published** - ***The Death Ray*** by *Daniel Clowes* (Drawn & Quarterly)
- **Best Biographical, Historical or Journalistic Presentation** - ***Genius Isolated: The Life and Art of Alex Toth*** (IDW Publishing)
- **Best Domestic Reprint Project** - ***Walt Simonson's The Mighty Thor Artist's Edition*** (IDW Publishing)
- **Special Award for Excellence in Presentation** - ***Walt Simonson's The Mighty Thor Artist's Edition*** (IDW Publishing)
- **Special Award for Humor in Comics-** ***Kate Beaton, Hark! A Vagrant*** (Drawn & Quarterly, harkavagrant.com)

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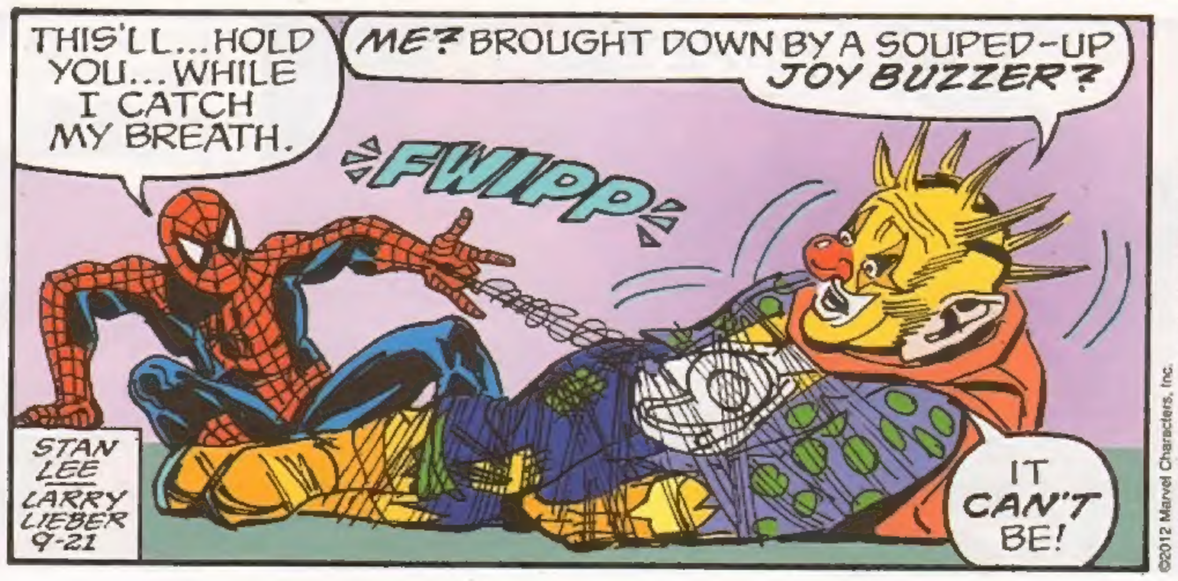

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Missing In Action: The Top Ten

It might seem like almost every great comic book series has been collected in trade paperback or hardcover, but there are some real gems that can't be found in any comic shop—some for legal reasons, some because of sales concerns, and some due to oversight. Here are ten projects that really deserve to be collected!

(10) ***Gunner & Sarge.*** This series of Pacific Theatre WWII adventures featured scripts by DC's "warhorse" *Robert Kanigher,* with *Jerry Grandenetti* supplying art for most of the issues , along with *Joe Kubert, Mike Andru & Ross Esposito, Irv Novick, & Jack Abel.* The stories followed the aforementioned everyman soldiers Gunner and Sarge (who were soon joined by their canine companion Pooch, a German Shepherd who became a vital third member of the team), whose war against the Japanese ran in ***Our Fighting Forces #s 45-94.*** Their followup series, ***The Losers,*** has been collected in a ***Showcase Presents,*** but the original tales are sadly uncompiled.

(9) ***Strange Worlds.*** This short-lived five-issue science fiction/fantasy series published by Atlas (Marvel's 1950s publishing imprint) is in effect the launch point for the original Marvel Bullpen. *Stan Lee* is joined by such superstar talents as *Jack Kirby* (marking his return to Marvel/Atlas as a regular member of the creative bullpen), *Steve Ditko, Don Heck, Joe Sinnott, Dick Ayers, John Buscema,* along with such Marvel veterans as *Paul Reinman, Al Williamson, Bob Powell, Carl Burgos,* and the late *Joe Maneely* (who most likely would have played a vital role in Marvel's early years had he not tragically died in 1958). This series may be too short for its own Marvel Masterworks, but perhaps it could be collected with ***World of Fantasy,*** whose final issues featured work from the same creators.

(8) ***Cancelled Comics Cavalcade.*** Comics have experienced boom and bust periods for decades... and the 1978 "DC Implosion" was the result of one of those bust periods. Since there were a number of stories that had either been completed or largely produced prior to the cancellation of their series, DC compiled them in a two-part ashcan series entitled ***Cancelled Comics Cavalcade.*** While many of the stories in these two books have since been reprinted, ***Cancelled Comics Cavalcade*** remains an elusive and extremely expensive find (and rightly so, since its print run was reportedly in the 35 to 50 copy range). Many fans and collectors would love to have a copy of these in their own collection!

(7) ***Master of Kung Fu.*** A product of the 1970s martial arts craze, ***Master of Kung Fu*** introduced Shang-Chi into the Marvel Universe. Problem was, his early tales feature his father, Fu Manchu, in prominent roles in most of the story arcs... and Fu Manchu is a licensed character to whom Marvel no longer has the rights. As a result, that wonderful material by *Steve Englehart, Jim Starlin, Doug Moench,* and *Paul Gulacy* remains uncollected and out of print.

(6) ***Idyl.*** Sometimes existential, sometimes surreal, sometimes dadaesque, this offbeat strip produced by *Jeffrey Catherine Jones* for ***National Lampoon*** was collected decades ago, but has been unavailable for years. While the stunning pen-and-ink art by Jones is the primary reason to own this, the quirky-bordering-on-bizarre scripts by Jones are an acquired taste with their own offbeat appeal.

(5) ***Two-Gun Kid.*** In the dawn of the Marvel Age of Comics, Marvel reinvented the Two-Gun Kid, transforming the book from just another Western into a Marvel adventure-hero title set in the West. Alas, the great *Stan Lee/Jack Kirby* relaunch that began in ***Two-Gun Kid #60*** remains uncollected, even though the character went on to become a part of the mainline Marvel Universe.

(4) ***Stig's Inferno.*** *Ty Templeton's* stylish, offbeat reinterpretation of *Dante Alighieri's* ***Divine Comedy,*** which once again put the "funny" in funny books, was Templeton's first original series. The zany project remains incomplete, but the seven issues that Templeton *did* produce deserve to be enjoyed by a new generation of readers. (There was at one time a trade paperback compilation of the first five issues of ***Stig's Inferno,*** but it's now as hard to find as the issues themselves!) .

(3) ***Paradoxman.*** *Barry Windsor-Smith* created this moody science fiction saga as one of three features that appeared in each issue of the oversized ***Barry Windsor-Smith: Storyteller*** series from Dark Horse. The other two story arcs, ***Young Gods*** and ***The Freebooters,*** have been collected, but ***Paradoxman*** remains sadly unavailable.

(2) ***Zenith.*** Believe it or not, there is a major *Grant Morrison* series that is currently out-of-print! ***Zenith,*** with its tagline "the hero with fashion sense," was *Grant Morrison's* first major foray into superheroics; the sleek art by *Steve Yeowell* perfectly complements Morrison's blend of superheroics and social commentary. The book stars the son of two 1960s superheroes who has his own super-powers, using them both to fight crime and to promote his musical career. It's the sort of metafictional adventure that Morrison does so well, but copyright disputes keep it out print. (The first three arcs of the saga were collected in five long-unavailable trade paperbacks, but the fourth arc remains uncollected since its publication in ***2000 AD.***)

(1) ***Miracleman/Marvelman.*** This series by *Alan Moore, Alan Davis, Garry Leach, Chuck Austen, Rick Veitch, John Totleben, Neil Gaiman,* and *Mark Buckingham* has been uncollected for decades, caught up in a legal miasma that seemed almost insurmountable. Just as this issue was going to press came word that the end of the legal issues might be on the horizon, so maybe 2013 will be the year that we get the collected ***Miracleman/Marvelman*** at last... along with the entirety of the until-now-uncompleted final story arc!

Honorable Mention

Elfquest. While this book has been collected in paperback and hardcover numerous times in the past quarter-century, the entirety of the work isn't in print right now. If you've tried to pick up a copy of *Wendy & Richard Pini's* original ***Elfquest*** saga, you've discovered that the first volume is quite expensive; that's because DC no longer has the rights to go back to press on ***Elfquest Archives Volume One.*** Since ***Volumes Two, Three,*** and ***Four*** remain in print, though, we didn't feel that it was right to classify the series as "Missing in Action." Nevertheless, let's hope that the *entire* ***Elfquest*** storyline comes back into print sometime very soon!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
ALL HIS FANCY GADGETS—AND A JOY BUZZER GOT HIM?!
FUNNIEST THING I EVER SAW!
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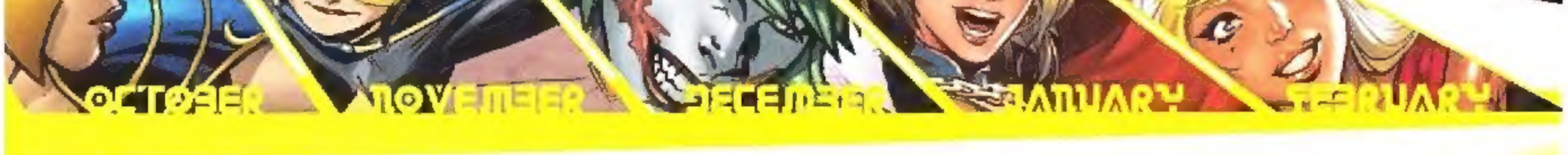

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